

# ***Keep Georgia Moving!***

**The Newsletter of the Georgia Statewide Transportation Plan**

Volume I, Number 5



## ***What's Happened So Far?***

**The following major events have occurred thus far in the project:**

<i>February 22, 2000</i>	First Stakeholders Meeting; discussion of project scope
<i>February 23-24, 2000</i>	Statewide Transportation Planning Forum; directors of six state DOTs came to Georgia to discuss statewide planning
<i>May 8 - 18, 2000</i>	Regional Public Forums held at 12 locations across the state
<i>August 9, 2000</i>	Second Stakeholders Meeting; discussion of report card and statewide economic forecasts
<i>August 9, 2000</i>	Environmental Justice Workshop
<i>December 13, 2000</i>	Performance Measures Workshop
<i>January 25, 2001</i>	Rural Transportation Workshop
<i>March 9, 2001</i>	Freight Transportation Workshop

## **Selected Comments from the Rural Transportation Workshop**

- Rapid completion of the Governor's Road Improvement Program (GRIP) should be a priority.
- Increases in motor fuel taxes should be considered to fund transportation improvements.
- Limits should be increased on the ability of local governments to raise revenue to fund transportation infrastructure.
- Rural transportation across county lines should be improved.
- Rural areas need increased access to state-level transportation decision-making.
- A second major airport should be considered.
- Better east/west access is needed in the Augusta/Macon/Columbus corridor.
- Distinctions should not be made in transportation planning based on sharp urban/rural lines – there are many variations.



A snapshot of rural Georgia's highway system.

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SOME OF THE MAJOR FINDINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS.  
THE COMPLETE PRESENTATION IS POSTED ON THE WEB SITE  
OR CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE PROJECT CONTACTS.

Goals

- System preservation (statewide)
- Congestion/LOS improvement (Atlanta region)
- Access/mobility/economic development (other MPO and rural)
- Interregional connectivity
- Quality of life (statewide)
- Safety of operation (statewide)

Proposed goals for the statewide plan.

Demand forecasts by mode.

Demand Forecasts to 2025

Area	2025 Annual Forecast	Growth from 1998	Annual Rate of Growth Per Year
<i>Highway VMT</i>			
Rural	63 billion	+67%	1.9%
Statewide	147 billion	+55%	1.6%
<i>Transit Boardings</i>			
Rural	4 million	+151%	3.5%
Statewide	360 million	+103%	2.6%
<i>Air Passengers</i>			
Statewide	82 million	+109%	2.8%
<i>Bicycle Demand</i>			
Statewide	63 million trips	+34%	1.1%
<i>Pedestrian Demand</i>			
Statewide	1,048 million trips	+34%	1.1%

Economic forecasts which generated the  
demand estimates.

Economic Forecasts to 2025

Area	2025 Forecast	Growth from 1998	Annual Rate of Growth Per Year
<i>Population</i>			
Non-Urbanized Areas	4.1 million	+30%	1.0%
Urbanized Areas	6.1 million	+37%	1.1%
Statewide Total	10.2 million	+34%	1.1%
<i>Employment</i>			
Non-Urbanized Areas	2.0 million	+38%	1.2%
Urbanized Areas	4.8 million	+54%	1.6%
Statewide Total	6.8 million	+49%	1.5%

Geographic Performance

	Base Year	Performance Measure	Forecast Year	Performance Measure
<i>Urban Congestion</i>				
Average Daily Speeds	1998	35.0 MPH	2025	30.7 MPH
Percent VMT below LOS C	1998	13.0%	2025	15.6%
<i>Atlanta</i>				
Average Daily Speeds	2000	27.5 MPH	2025	23.1 MPH
<i>Rural Congestion</i>				
Average Daily Speeds	1998	54.2 MPH	2025	49.6 MPH
Percent VMT below LOS C	1998	1.6%	2025	2.1%

Demand forecasts by mode.

System Performance

	Base Year	Performance Measure	Forecast Year	Performance Measure
<i>Highway Average</i>				
Daily Speeds Statewide	1998	40.9 MPH	2025	36.5 MPH
<i>Highway Congestion</i>				
Percent of VMT below LOS "C"	1998	8.3%	2025	9.9%
<i>Pavement Condition</i>				
Average PSR	1998	4.07	2025	3.65
<i>Safety</i>				
Crash Rate per 100 MVM	1998	320.0	2025	226.4
Injury Rate per 100 MVM	1998	130.2	2025	72.5
Fatality rate per 100 MVM	1998	1.8	2025	0.9

	Health Index (PONTIS® Rating)	Average Percent	Structures Above 75 Percent
<i>Bridge Conditions</i>			
	2000	92.1	88.6%
	2008	83.5	86.4%
	2010	79.0	72.6%
	2025	57.4	14.5%

(Bridge needs backlog grows from \$1.2 billion in 2000 to \$4.3 billion in 2025.)

Process for evaluating  
performance measures.

Sample performance measures.

System Performance

	Riders
<i>Potential Transit Riders</i>	
Rural Transit Existing Counties	640,000
Rural Transit Unserved Counties	1,417,000
Urban Unserved Areas	187,950
Commuter Rail Phase II	4,789,000
Intercity Rail	
All priorities	1,988,000
Second priorities	574,000

Note: 144 of Georgia's 159 counties are classified as rural for transit purposes  
The two urban counties with no service are Houston and Glynn  
Demand responsive ridership is assumed at average rural per capita rates  
All other urban areas are served by more than basic demand responsive service

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### **Why Should You Care?**

- ◆ *New and expanding businesses depend on a well planned transportation system.*
- ◆ *High transportation costs result in higher prices at your stores.*
- ◆ *Traffic congestion makes for much longer trips.*
- ◆ *If you don't or can't drive, alternative ways to travel are important.*
- ◆ *Improving the quality of the air you breathe positively impacts your health.*

### **What's Next?**

- Workshop on rural and persons with disabilities  
*April 11, 2001, Cordele, GA, 1-3 p.m., South Georgia Technical College*
- Stakeholder Meeting on draft recommendations  
*April/May, 2001*
- Regional Public Forum on draft recommendations  
*May, 14-24 2001*

### **What Can You Do?**

- ✓ Look for opportunities to participate in project meetings and other activities.
- ✓ Check out the GDOT WEB sitelink and 800 telephone number for progress reports on the Plan, meeting notices, and accessing the e-mail comment section.
- ✓ Let us know of any public events that may be occurring or publications through which we may provide promotional information on the Statewide Plan.
- ✓ Become a member of our "Family of Partners," those who have indicated that they would like to receive information on a regular basis on all aspects of the Department's transportation planning program.

We are counting on you! Help make this Statewide Transportation Plan the most successful outreach initiative in GDOT's history! Please call, fax or email us if you have any questions or would like additional information. Thank you!

### **Project Background**

Georgia will be receiving up to \$400 million annually in additional federal transportation funding due to the passage of TEA-21. Along with this increased funding comes the opportunity to reexamine how we are addressing the transportation needs of our State's residents, businesses and traveling public. In response to this challenge, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) will take a fresh look at how to best meet the transportation needs of the State for the new millennium by updating the **Statewide Transportation Plan**. This will require a major effort to get input from Georgians and to provide them with useful information. This first edition of the project newsletter is an important part of this outreach effort. It will be published quarterly to provide citizens with updates on project activities and directions for getting involved in the project.

**Project Web Site:** [www.dot.state.ga.us](http://www.dot.state.ga.us)

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